COCHIN
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SESSION 1116

Friday, *the* $\frac{\textit{1st August 1941}}{\textit{17th Karkadagam 1116}}$

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble President (M. R. Ry. K. ACHYUTA MENON Avl., B.A., B.L.), in the Chair.

Messrs. P. Achyuta Menon and T. V. Subramania Ayyar were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DEPRESSED CLASSES COLONIES—TENDERS FOR EXECUTION OF WORKS

76. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether it is not one of the conditions, when works in Depressed Classes colonies are entrusted on tenders, to get the manual works executed by members of the colonies at a daily wage of 2 as.;

(*b*) who has fixed this standard of wages and on what principle;

(*c*) whether the wages outside the colonies are not higher?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government have fixed it. The colonists had to contribute free labour in all works undertaken by the Department. Seeing that the colonists earn their livelihood by daily labour, Government modified this and ordered that they may be paid as. 2 each.

(*c*) Yes.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Are the colonists agreeing to work in these places on this low rate of wages?

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Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* As a matter of fact, they were not given anything for this work. I thought it would be very irksome to them to work for no remuneration when they are all daily wage earners and that something must be given to them. The kind of work that they do there is, for example, digging of wells, etc., for the use of the 30 or 40 houses in a colony. Government met all the other expenses and the colonists had to supply the labour. That was the practice before. I have now modified it and said that they should be paid at least two annas. I am not going to say it is sufficient remuneration, but certainly it is an improvement of the then existing conditions, when I came to office.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Are not these Government works?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It is intended for their own benefit.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether reduction in the estimates of expenditure is made with reference to the lower wages fixed by Government?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. The object is to make the money go as far as possible, regard being had to the limited amount intended solely for their own purposes.

DEPRESSED CLASS PUPILS—SUPPLY OF CLOTHS IN 1116—1117

77. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what arrangements have been made this academic year (1116—17) for the supply of cloths to the Depressed Class pupils;

(*b*) from where are the cloths arranged to be supplied;

(*c*) whether tenders were called for;

(*d*) whether the first supply for the present academic year is over;

(*e*) how many indents for cloths are pending scrutiny in the Office of the Protector?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) No arrangements have been made.

(*b*) to (*e*) No answer is necessary in view of the answer to (*a*).

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